

This e-mail contains graphics, if you don't see them » [view it online](#).



A Joint Media Project of  
the [Non-profit International Press Syndicate Group](#) with IDN as the Flagship Agency  
and [Soka Gakkai International](#) in Consultative Status with ECOSOC

## SDGs for All Newsletter - March 2021 In Retrospect

### COVID-19 Bares Chronic Development Fault Lines in Asia-Pacific



Viewpoint by Armida Salsiah  
Alisjahbana

*The writer is United Nations-Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP).*

BANGKOK (IDN) — The world is emerging from the biggest social and economic shock in living memory, but it will be a long time before the deep scars of the COVID-19 pandemic on human well-being fully heal.

[Read More](#)

### COVID-19 Pushes Millions into Destitution



By Jaya Ramachandran

GENEVA (IDN) — A once-in-a-century crisis—a *Great Disruption unleashed by the COVID-19 pandemic*—hit the world economy in 2020. The *pandemic* has reached every corner of the *globe*. Meanwhile, more than 120 million have been infected and close to 2.7

million people killed worldwide.

High unemployment and loss of income have pushed millions into destitution during the pandemic. The total number of people living in poverty is expected to have increased by 131 million in 2020 alone. As many as 797 million people will still be trapped in extreme poverty in 2030, representing a poverty headcount ratio of over 9 per cent. (P33)  
[CHINESE](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [KOREAN](#) | [PORTUGUESE](#)

[Read More](#)

## A Three-Day Event in Italy to Set the Stage for UN Food Systems Summit

---



By Jaya Ramachandran

ROME (IDN) — Under the leadership of UN Secretary-General António Guterres and Italy's Prime Minister Mario Draghi, the Pre-Summit of the [2021 UN Food Systems Summit](#) from July 19 to July 21 will bring together worldwide efforts and contributions aiming at transforming global food

systems.

[Read More](#)

## UN Keen to Achieve Gender Equality Far Ahead of 2150

---



By Caroline Mwangi

NEW YORK (IDN) — The international community has set the goal of achieving gender equality by 2030. But [UN Women](#), a [United Nations](#)

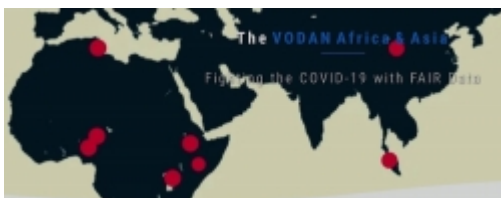
entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women, maintains that "at the current rate of progress, gender equality will not be reached among Heads of Government until 2150, another 130 years".

This projection is based on the new [data](#) published ahead of the ten-day 65th session of the [United Nations Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW65\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## UN Acclaims VODAN's Contribution to Fight COVID-19 in Africa

---



By Reinhard Jacobsen

BRUSSELS (IDN) — The United Nations has commended [VODAN-AFRICA](#) for their innovative approach to "data sharing and re-use under the

present COVID-19 circumstances". The Virus Outbreak Data Network is a system of sharing data on Coronavirus that ensures that the information remains in the country that generated it, rather than being exported and unavailable to local doctors and scientists.

The network includes computer scientists and health data management experts, clinicians and social scientists from all of the participating countries. Presently, these include Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Tunisia, Liberia and Zimbabwe. (P32) [FRENCH](#) | [GERMAN](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [TAGALOG](#)

[Read More](#)

## UN Campaigns to Make Vaccines a Global Public Good

---



By J Nastranis

NEW YORK (IDN) — New [research](#) has cautioned against the growing trend towards "vaccine nationalism" where countries prioritize their own vaccine needs. The study warns that in

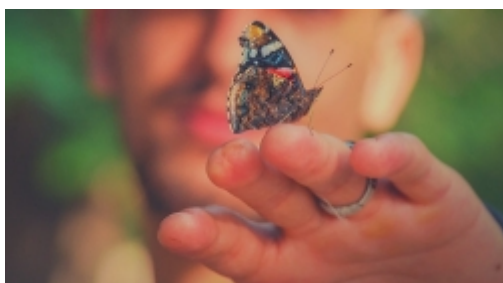
monopolizing the supply of vaccines against the Covid-19 pandemic, wealthy nations are threatening economic destruction which will hit affluent countries nearly as hard as those in the developing world.

Even if wealthy nations are fully vaccinated by the middle of this year, and poor countries largely shut out, the study concludes that the global economy would suffer losses exceeding \$9 trillion, a sum greater than the annual output of Japan and Germany combined. Nearly half of those costs would be absorbed by wealthy countries like the United States, Canada and Britain. (P31) [INDONESIAN](#) | [JAPANESE](#) [TEXT VERSION](#) [PDF](#) | [THAI](#) | [TURKISH](#)

[Read More](#)

## Human Civilisation on a Collision Course with the Laws of Ecology

---



Viewpoint by Tom Pegram and Julia Kreienkamp\*

LONDON (IDN) — As governments around the world roll out COVID-19 vaccine programmes and seek to kickstart their economies back to life, recovery seems to be within reach.

However, hard questions must not be sidestepped. How did this pandemic happen? And how resilient are we to future global risks, including the possibility of deadlier pandemics?

Importantly, COVID-19 was not a 'black swan' event – an event that cannot be reasonably anticipated.

[Read More](#)

## Share of Women Parliamentarians Reaches 'All-Time High'

---



By Jamshed Baruah

GENEVA (IDN) — There is a long way to go to achieve gender parity. But a new report reveals that the share of women parliamentarians worldwide reached more than 25 per cent in 2020 marking a historic step. *Women in Parliament* report was launched on

March 5 ahead of the [International Women's Day](#) on March 8.

"It gives me great pleasure to announce that for the first time, women now account for more than a quarter of parliamentarians worldwide," Secretary-General of UN partner the [Inter-Parliamentary](#)

[Union \(IPU\)](#) Martin Chungong said at the UN Office in Geneva. "The global average of women in parliament has now reached 25.5 per cent."

[Read More](#)

## Free COVID-19 Vaccines from Big Pharma Control



Viewpoint by Sonali Kolhatkar

*This article was produced by [Economy for All](#), a project of the Independent Media Institute. Sonali Kolhatkar is the founder, host and executive producer of "[Rising Up With Sonali](#)," a television and radio show that airs on Free*

*Speech TV and Pacifica stations.*

LOS ANGELES (IDN) — At a recent virtual gathering of parents and faculty at my children's school, one parent who is a teacher and therefore eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine mentioned that she got her first Pfizer shot at a local pharmacy, and when she asked about a leftover dose that could be given to her husband rather than thrown away, her husband got lucky.

[Read More](#)

### Published by

The [Non-profit International Press Syndicate Group](#) with IDN as the Flagship Agency  
33 Lafferty Street, Toronto, ONT M9C5B5, CANADA  
Europaplatz 2, 8th Floor, 10557 Berlin, GERMANY  
Ichimura bldg. 4F, 3-2 Kanda Ogawa-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo JAPAN 101-0052

as part of a Joint Media Project with the  
[Soka Gakkai International](#)

15-3 Samon-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0017, Japan



You are receiving this newsletter for free because you subscribed or your colleagues/friends recommended you.

Please forward it as you deem fit.

**Unsubscribe** if our information is of no interest to you.